

Applicants : Jonathan J. King et al.
Appln. No. : 09/692,663
Page : 11

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application as amended is requested.

Independent claims 7 and 32 have been amended to recite that the raceway has an elongated upper opening along a top side of the raceway providing access to the elongated passageway and permitting lay-in of utility lines into the passageway.

In contrast, Rothschild 6,023,896 discloses a raceway that is completely closed off by a top strip 72 (Fig. 10b), and access to the raceway is provided by side openings that can be closed off by overlapping plinth elements 74. The plinth elements are hingedly mounted, as described at column 8, line 63 through column 9, line 13, and shown in Figs. 10d-10f of Rothschild '896.

Independent claim 25 has been amended to recite a clip including a pair of extensions extending inwardly towards one another, and a pair of flexible legs extending away from the extensions and defining a space therebetween. The legs have end portions positioned adjacent one another whereby the legs can be flexed apart to form an enlarged gap between the end portions for insertion of utility lines into the space.

Applicants submit that end cover 160 (Fig. 28) of Hand 6,178,702 is substantially different, and does not disclose or suggest flexible legs as recited in amended claim 25.

Applicants have made a concerted effort to the place the present application in condition for allowance, and a notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. In the event there are any remaining informalities, the courtesy of a telephone call to the undersigned attorney would be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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